

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact, all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere. Send or instructions.

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THE TRUE REFORMERS.

In view of the magnificent success of the True Reformers Association as shown forth to the world through its recent anniversary, the lame imputation that the Negro cannot succeed in business, falls to the ground. It matters not how persistently race recriminators and other demagogues may hereafter hug the fond delusion to their souls that the Negro as a business man is a failure, the splendid achievement of the True Reformers will always stand out as a most irrefutable negation.

Attached to its inception and growth there is no novelty. Obscure and humble in its origin, it passed through all the stages of infantile growth, demonstrating at every step of the way the high business instinct and capability of its parentage. The capital, property and other interests of this organization represent hundreds and thousands of dollars of investments. It is a monument to the possibilities of human genius without regard to whatever may be the color of the skin that cloaks its possessor. The secret of the phenomenal success of this giant concern is the same as that which promotes and great institution's welfare. First, there was a want to be met, and second, there was a man equal to the emergency. All honor to the late lamented W. W. Brown with whose name the main inspiration of the Grand United Order of True Reformers must ever be indissolubly linked. And no less worthy mention is the name of that splendid genius whose indomitable energy has so admirably enabled him to perpetuate the work so nobly begun, the Rev. W. L. Taylor. Regardless of the overwhelming testimony to the Negro's capacity to do business which this great institution furnishes there will always be those who from sheer ignorance, cussedness or wilfulness will persistently refuse to recognize this capacity. These, like the Master's poor, "ye will always have with you." It matters not what the tremendous success of this organization indicates, the elements lead-

ing up to it must be measured by the common standard. Granted that it is only a capacity to make money. No greater poet of the Anglo-Saxon race was ever breathed upon by the divine afflatus than he who said,

"But what is worth in anything
But so much money as 'twill bring!"

Booker Washington is the leader par excellence of the American Negro.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL WASHINGTON.

It is about definitely settled that Booker T. Washington will be selected as Director General of the Negro exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be held in St. Louis in 1903. Everybody, black and white agree that Mr. Washington is the fittest man for such a significant and important an assignment. No other name is mentioned in this connection. The Negro people, for once, are a unit in their advocacy of Mr. Washington, and he is regarded as the only man of our race who could bring forth a display that will properly place our achievements within the range of the entire world's vision. The St. Louis fair will be the most stupendous undertaking of its kind that history has ever known. The necessity of sober judgment and clear-headed action is recognized at all hands and such commanding personal reputation as Mr. Washington possesses is essential to the success that would be ours. The call for Booker T. Washington is spontaneous and unanimous.

The Colored American standing as the spokesman of 10,000,000 Negroes, urges that the appointment of Mr. Washington be made at the earliest practicable moment. There is much to be done and a start cannot be made too quickly.

In no other way could the authorities more effectively please the friends of Negroes advancement than by naming Mr. Washington at once as director general of the Afro American department at St. Louis.

It is not always the honest man who yell, "stop thief!"

NAVAL OFFICER AT NEW ORLEANS.

The berth of naval officer at the port of New Orleans is vacant by reason by the death of Mr. John Webre. The deceased has served with credit to himself, to the race and to the glory of the nation. The discussion must now come as to his successor.

The logic of the situation points to the selection of a Negro to this important post. Under every republican administration the honor has fallen to the colored contingent and no good reason can be urged why the very just custom should be departed from. No class of voters in the country have been more loyal to republican principles than the strong men of the Pelican state. None have sacrificed more for the perpetuation of the policies of Lincoln, Grant, Morton, Harrison, McKinley and Roosevelt than these hardy veterans of sound finance and national prosperity. A departure from time-honored traditions in this crisis would be a discouragement to those who have cheerfully borne the burdens in the hours of trial and in the morning of gloom and doubt.

The Colored American is confident that President Roosevelt will see the wisdom of settling the matter at once and thus relieve the natural anxiety felt by the Negro leaders of Louisiana.

We urge that a competent colored man be given the New Orleans naval station at the earliest possible moment

and have no doubt that the appointment will be made along the lines indicated as soon as the proper recommendations can be submitted for his consideration.

By all means the new naval officer at New Orleans should be a representative colored republican and the nomination ought not to be long delayed.

Colored men of means should begin the new year by investing a little cash in some needed Negro enterprise.

AS TO MR. R. W. THOMPSON.

We regret exceedingly that Director Merriam, of the Census Office could not see his way to continue Mr. R. W. Thompson at least until the Bureau could be made permanent, thus conferring upon him eligibility for transfer to another department where his services could be used to advantage. In a letter deploring the reduction making his retirement necessary, Director Merriam pays a high compliment to Mr. Thompson's faithful service, remarks the agreeable relations that have existed throughout the two years of his incumbency, and concludes with the wish that he may succeed in whatever direction he may in future bend his energies. The Colored American knows Mr. Thompson and admires his intellectual ability and hustling qualities and opines that he will not be long "out of a job." When willingness to work is combined with genuine capacity, those who require diligence and painstaking effort do themselves an injustice in permitting such a well-equipped factor as Mr. Thompson to remain idle. Mr. Thompson will "land" soon and happily. That is our guess and sincere hope.

The reduction in the Census office is creating havoc in some well regulated families.

Editor W. E. King of the Dallas Express is an amusing little cuss. He must have been brought up in Mississippi where alligators were plenty and where manners and decency were unknown. He is never so happy as when chewing the rag with Editor Cooper. When the American News Company took charge of the circulation of The Colored American announcements of the fact were sent to a number of supposed friendly newspapers, among them the Dallas Express. Editor King's rapacity is well known in Texas and it was at its best when he sent his bill to us. Before it could be attended to Mr. King began to vituperate through his editorial page, and has kept it up until this time. He complains of not getting his share of work from the colored people in Dallas and we can hardly blame them for not giving work to a man who publishes his private business in a newspaper. If Mr. King comes to Washington we shall give him the same royal time we gave him in Philadelphia at the last National Republican Convention. Mr. King should keep cool. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. A history of how Mr. King became owner and publisher of the Express would make mighty interesting reading.

Andrew Carnegie should save one check for some great industrial Negro University in the South.

Editor Clifford who publishes the Pioneer Press, a handbill weekly with democratic tendencies, compares the relative intellectual ability of Editor Wilkins of The Conservator and Edi-

tor Cooper of The Colored American and decides that Editor Wilkins is more brainy and scholarly. The Pioneer Press has on an average two libel suits a year and loses both suits through Editor Clifford's ignorance of the law. Shysters like Clifford keep colored people from patronizing the professional men of the race. See!

The man at the White House is keeping all of the politicians guessing.

The "holier than thou" of the Negro Press are now sparring for an inning.

The Ex-Slave Pension movement is without an organization and without a head. Pity.

The man who is not powerful enough to make a few enemies will not make many loyal friends.

Negro editors should turn their guns on the common enemy and cease fighting among themselves.

Men who have so much time to give to other people's business usually neglect their own—if they have any.

President Roosevelt is not discriminating against the Afro-American as suggested by some of the race newspapers. He is just changing things about—putting in new blood as it were.

The democrats of Maryland are threatening to introduce a jim crow car bill in the legislature of that state. Where are the champions of the rights of the Negroes? Where are the colored leaders?

"Jilly whitism" should not prevail in the selection of a naval officer at the port of New Orleans. The colored republicans are the backbone of the party organization of the Pelican state and they deserve honorable recognition.

Editor I. B. Scott, the gifted thinker of the Southwestern Christian Advocate, has written a most timely article on "The Reduction of Representation in the South." It is reproduced in another part of this issue of The Colored American and deserves a careful reading.

The editor whose opinion page is devoted to abuse of somebody is of no service to his race or his community. There is real work ahead for the race to perform and it is the editor's duty as it is of the teacher, the preacher and the leader to point the way. Down with the croakers and Ishamaelites.

The North is vitally interested in all that President Roosevelt proposes to do for the Southern Negro. His consideration for the welfare for the fighters for republicanism in Louisiana, North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas will set the pace for the orators who must make arguments in the states of the North and Middle West.

Founders' Day.

Wilberforce University will celebrate its 38th anniversary known as Founders Day, February 24, 1902 to which all ministers, educators and Christians are invited. An interesting program has been arranged and the day will be a banner one in every respect.